

March 27, 1981

LB 536, 158

SPEAKER MARVEL: The bill is advanced.

SENATOR WESELY PRESIDING

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Clerk, would you please read LB 158.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB L58 was offered by Senator Marvel at the request of the Governor. (Read.) The bill was read on January 14, referred to Appropriations. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending by the Appropriations Committee, Mr. President.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Warner, do you wish to take the committee amendments?

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Marvel will take it. He has got it. I move their adoption. They are real good.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Marvel, do you wish to take the committee amendments to LB 158?

SENATOR MARVEL: I have two sheets that back up the presentation and the first one is the introducer's statement of purpose which states, in effect, that this bill is to create a cash fund for the State Energy Office. This fund will be used to deposit energy audit fees collected from various state agencies. The fees will pay the cost of conducting energy audits of state owned buildings and reporting the results of the audits back to the agencies. The energy savings realized from the conservation measures recommended by each audit will save the state a substantial amount in energy costs. Now the Appropriations Committee has offered a series of amendments to LB 158. There are...the first one, the revolving fund instead of a cash fund; secondly, a two year life, twenty-seven months; third one, audits would be mandatory not voluntary; number four, cost of audit limited to actual cost of the audit not to exceed five cents per square foot; number five, reports of audits are to be submitted to the budget administrator and the legislative fiscal analyst within sixty days and this finally, Mr. President, is the impact of these amendments. The Energy Office could charge up to \$1,500 for a thirty thousand square foot building, \$2,000 for a forty thousand square foot building as opposed to the \$150 and \$200 estimate originally arrived at. The next impact, instead of spending \$73,603 maximum, the Energy Office fiscal note estimates expenditures of \$125,450 in '81-'82 and \$147,393 in '82-'83. The third impact is stated as follows: The staff reduction, the energy auditors could not take place and item number four, the energy office will be hard pressed to do all necessary audits in two years as they have revised their estimates from seventeen hundred